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Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Water Resources
San Luis Field Division, 31770
Gonzaga Rd. Gustine, CA 95322

Project Title: California Aqueduct Milepost 108.70L Westlands Water District Valve Replacement

Project Location City and County: Fresno County

Project Location, Specific: Work will occur on the left (L) side of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct) at milepost (MP) 108.70L in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right-of-way. The work area is approximately 0.07 miles northwest of the intersection of South Fairfax Avenue and the Aqueduct and approximately 10.50 miles southwest of the City of Mendota (coordinates 36.709655, -120.568337).

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Westlands Water District (WWD) requests encroachment permission to replace an existing, damaged, underground valve located in the DWR ROW. An area up to 25 feet long, by 25 feet wide, by 8 feet deep will be excavated to expose the damaged 12-inch diameter cast iron valve. The damaged valve will be unbolted from the existing main waterline and will be replaced with a new valve made of similar dimensions and materials. After the valve is replaced, the excavated area will be backfilled and compacted to the original grade. This project is necessary to continue water deliveries; WWD and its Contractors will benefit from the work.

Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources, as Responsible Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Westlands Water District

Exempt Status: (check one)

□ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

□ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

□ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

X Categorical Exemption: 15305(b) – Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations (Issuance of minor encroachment permits)

□ Statutory Exemptions. State code number(s):

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: WWD requests permission to replace an existing valve in the DWR ROW. Work will occur in an area with an average slope of less than 20 percent, work will not result in any changes to land use or density. DWR will issue an Encroachment Permit for this work. Categorical Exemptions 15305(b) (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations – Issuance of minor encroachment permits) applies.

Responsible Agency Contact:

Signature: Mark McDaniel Date: 11/20/2025

Printed Name: Mark McDaniel Title: Planner/Scheduler/UC Supervisor Phone: (209) 827-5190